

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 2:14 PM

Subject: Council Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

All fields marked "(*)" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.

Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

Name(*) Leslie Cole Truglio
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Meeting Date (*) 2016-06-01
Council/PH Committee (*) Council
Agenda Item (*) Bill 15, CD2 FD1-Ozawa
Your position on the matter (*) Oppose
Representing (*) Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) No

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Written Testimony

Aloha, I am writing to express my strong support of community stewardship to preserve Kānewai Spring, and my strong opposition to Councilman Ozawa's proposed amendment (Council Bill 15 CD2 FD-1) to cut the funding to purchase and protect this cultural and environmental treasure. As a mother of four kids who lives in Hawai'i Kai, I am sickened and disheartened that a councilman who supposedly represents the people of Hawai'i would perpetuate the same pattern of destruction that has been going on here since the overthrow of the monarchy...pushing out Hawaiian culture and replacing it with money, greed, power, control and exclusion...rather than promoting the fundamentally inherent values of aloha and caring for our land and people. The wealthy landowners who surround Kānewai Spring probably aren't even from here and obviously don't appreciate the value of a pristine freshwater spring in their collective backyard. These are

the types of people who invest in lavish oceanfront homes, then visit them several times a year, while the house lies empty the rest of the time, driving up real estate prices for the rest of us who struggle to afford to live here year round. These are the people who intentionally cut off beach access and harass local fisherman practicing native gathering rights or simply enjoying ocean time with their friends and families. These are people who do not care about the benefit of the people of Hawai'i as a whole. They only care about themselves and their perceived property values and personal interests. What they don't realize is that this narrow minded way of thinking is destroying the very essence of what makes Hawai'i so special, that probably attracted them to this area in the first place. Cutting funding for Kānewai Spring has much larger ramifications than simply letting it go to private ownership. It symbolizes the last nail in the coffin for ancient fishponds in East O'ahu. These ponds feed precious and vital ecosystems that contribute to the health of all of us. When they are destroyed, we all suffer. The Hawaii Kai marina used to be known as Kuapā Pond, and was the largest fishpond in the entire state, with an abundance of delicious fish that sustained the area. Ever since Henry J. Kaiser developed and dredged the area, the waters in and around Maunalua Bay have become a disgusting brew of toxic fish, dead coral, invasive limu and deadly bacteria that routinely give swimmers staph infections. This is directly related to the development of luxury homes and the destruction of the natural environment. Ironically, Kalaniana'ole Highway now runs over what used to be the rock wall separating the fishpond from the sea. Similarly, Kalama Valley was destroyed by development back in the 1970's, when trustees of Bishop Estates of all people, ordered the bulldozing of the homes of Hawaiian farmers who were responsibly and sustainably managing their leased lands. Do we want to essentially continue to follow that exact pattern a few valleys over in Kuli'ou'ou by pushing out the stewards who are donating their time for the greater good of our people and our environment, so that a few rich people can bump up their property values and make their investments even more private and exclusive? The people who are caring for Kānewai Spring are not degenerates. They are canoe club paddlers, nature lovers, school children and other kindred spirits. They are instilling the traditional values of working together, helping, sharing, caring for the Earth and giving back. They are connecting kids with nature and encouraging them to disconnect from their cell phones and computers. They are teaching community members about native plants and fish and the importance of protecting them for future generations. How could anyone be opposed to cute kids and their families gathering together on a Saturday morning to pull weeds and plant beautiful gardens? What they are doing is a service to the community, not a threat. The self-centered mentality that has invaded Hawai'i has got to go. Our City Council members must uphold Hawaiian values and not be seduced by a handful of

wealthy constituents who do not have the big picture in mind. Those of us who are from here are counting on you to do what is right, what is pono, rather than simply giving in to the highest bidder. If you do that, you might as well move to California or Florida because we will have become controlled by money just like the rest of them. Please protect Kānewai Spring and do not let us lose yet another cultural and environmental reminder of a past that is worth saving. Me ke aloha, Leslie Cole Truglio

**Testimony
Attachment**

**Accept Terms
and Conditions 1
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